Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

L-02 FRB-03 TAR-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 /099 W

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P R 060618Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4997 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJ: FEB. 8 GRAIN EXPORTERS CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 26515; (B) STATE 21467

- 1. SUMMARY: GOA ADVISED OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEB. 8
 EXPORTER CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON AND WILL ATTEND.
 AGRICULTURE TROUBLED BY PHRASEOLOGY REF B, BUT PROBLEM SEEMS RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.
- 2. EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED BAKER, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, COMMODITY POLICY DIVISION, DEPT. OF OVERSEAS TRADE, FEB. 6 OF DETAILS FEB. 8 EXPORTERS CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON CONTAINED REF A. GOA DELEGATION HAS LONG SINCE DEPARTED AUSTRALIA FOR LONDON MEETINGS, BUT BAKER ASSURED US WORD WILL BE PASSED TO THEM.

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3. EMBASSY RECEIVED SAME DAY LETTER DATED FEB. 6 FROM

BAKER FORMALLY ACCEPTING INVITATION (REF B) TO ATTEND FEB. 8 CONSULTATIONS. SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF LETTER STATE THAT GOA "WILL BE READY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO DISCUSSION ON REVIEW OF 1974/75 GRAINS SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR 1975/76. WE APPRECIATE INTEREST OF U.S. IN EXPLORING POSSIBLE ROLE OF GRAIN EXPORTERS IN MEETING WORLD FOOD NEEDS DURING NEXT DECADE BUT WE ENVISAGE THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS ASPECT COULD, AT BEST, BE LIMITED, SPECULATIVE AND BASED ON HIGHLY TENTATIVE CONSIDERATIONS. AS WE SEE IT. FUTURE ROLE WHICH EXPORTERS MAY BE WILLING AND ABLE TO PLAY WILL DEPEND TO SIGNIFICANT DEGREE NOT ONLY ON WILLINGNESS OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN GRAIN EXPORTERS TO SHARE BURDEN OF POSSIBLE FOOD SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BUT ALSO ON OUTCOME OF OTHER DISCUSSIONS IN I.W.C., F.A.O, AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. THUS, WHILE WE WOULD AGREE THAT MEETING SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CONCERT VIEWS OF EXPORTERS PRIOR TO THE RESERVES DISCUSSION, WE WOULD EXPECT IT TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES WITHOUT COMMITMENT AND IN SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. WE BELIEVE THAT CLARIFICATION OF THE INTERESTS OF EXPORTERS WOULD HELP PROMOTE MORE USEFUL DISCUSSION IN MEETINGS WHICH FOLLOW, AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD FOLLOW UP ACTION ON WFC RESOLUTIONS."

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: BAKER CONFIDED THAT AGRICULTURE DEPUTY SECRETARY SWIFT BALKED AT SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF REF B, WHICH SWIFT APPARENTLY FELT MIGHT REFLECT USG ATTEMPT TO REVIVE SECRETARY'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP, WHICH WFC DID NOT ACCEPT. BAKER SAYS DOT DID NOT HAVE SAME "SEMANTIC PROBLEM" WITH REF B AS DID SWIFT, AND FEB. 6 LETTER WAS DELAYED UNTIL COMPROMISE RESPONSE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH DEPARTMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT. PROBLEM EVIDENTLY RESOLVED, BUT US DELEGATION MAY NOTE RESIDUAL AUSTRALIAN SENSITIVITIES ON THIS POINT. HARROP

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Message Attributes

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